

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GUATEM 04979 060305Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-15 CU-06 DHA-02 /080 W
-----000644 062305Z /66

R 052208Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7061
INFO AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

UNCLAS GUATEMALA 4979

E.O. 11652 NA
TAGS: GT, SHUM, PINT
SUBJ: STUDENT KILLINGS PROTESTED

1. SUMMARY: ABDUCTION-KILLING OF TWO STUDENTS HAS STIMULATED DEMONSTRATIONS, FRESH CONCERN ABOUT INTENSIFICATION OF POLITICAL VIOLENCE, AND CHARGES OF GOG COMPLICITY. UNIVERSITY STUDENT ASSOCIATION HAS SENT TELEGRAM, INTER ALIA, TO U.S. SENATE AND AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL DENOUNCING "FLAGRANT VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS" ON PART OF "REPRESSIVE FORCES." END SUMMARY

2. RECENT DAYS HAVE SEEN REPEATED, PEACEFUL DEMONSTRATIONS PRIMARILY BY SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS, PROTESTING ABDUCTION-MURDER OF 22-YEAR-OLD SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENT LEADER, ANIBAL LEONEL CABALLEROS, AND ROBIN GARCIA DAVILA, A 19-YEAR-OLD AGRONOMY STUDENT AT SAN CARLOS UNIVERSITY. UNIVERSITY STUDENT ASSOCIATION (AEU) HAS ACCUSED "THE REPRESSIVE FORCES WHICH OPERATE UNDER GOVERNMENT PROTECTION," ALTHOUGH FEW OF THE PROTESTERS HAVE IMPUTED GOVERNMENT'S DIRECT RESPONSIBILITY. GOVERNMENT SPOKESMEN HAVE DENIED ANY INVOLVEMENT, SAID THEY HAVE "CLUES" TO IDENTITY OF THOSE RESPONSIBLE, CONDEMMED
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VIOLENCE FROM WHATEVER SOURCE, AND WARNED STUDENTS (WHO HAVE SCHEDULED ANOTHER DEMONSTRATION FOR AFTERNOON AUGUST 5) THAT GOVERNMENT'S TOLERANCE OF UNAUTHORIZED DEMONSTRATIONS HAS LIMITS.

3. GARCIA'S BODY WAS FOUND AUGUST 4 NEAR HIGHWAY NORTH OF ESCUINTLA. ON IT WAS A PIECE OF PAPER WITH WORDS

"ORGANIZACION ESA" (ANTICOMMUNIST SECRET ARMY). (GUATEMALA 3987 REPORTED BULLETIN DISTRIBUTED TO MEDIA JUNE 27 ANNOUNCING ESA'S "FORMATION.") CORONER ESTABLISHED THAT DEATH OCCURRED JULY 28-29. IN ADDITION TO BULLET WOUNDS, BODY BORE EVIDENCE OF EXTENSIVE TORTURE, AS DID THAT OF CABALLEROS, WHICH WAS FOUND IN A GUATEMALA CITY NEIGHBORHOOD SOME DAYS EARLIER. THE TWO HAD BEEN SEEN TOGETHER IN GUATEMALA CITY BEFORE ABDUCTION.

4. ALTHOUGH CABALLEROS APPARENTLY HAD A CERTAIN LOCAL RENOWN AS ONE OF THE LEADERS OF A STUDENT STRIKE, NEITHER CAN BE SAID TO HAVE BEEN POLITICALLY PROMINENT.

5. IN AUGUST 5 OPPOSITION EL GRAFICO, AEU TOOK PAID SPACE TO PUBLISH TEXT OF A TELEGRAM SENT PREVIOUS DAY TO A NUMBER OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENT AND HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS AND U.S. SENATE. CABLE WAS EVIDENTLY SENT BEFORE GARCIA'S DEATH HAD BEEN CONFIRMED. TEXT FOLLOWS: "WE GUATEMALAN STUDENTS DENOUNCE THE FLAGRANT VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS EXPERIENCED AT THIS TIME IN GUATEMALA AND ASK YOUR SOLIDARITY FOR RESPECTING THE LIFE AND LIBERTY OF UNIVERSITY STUDENT ROBIN GARCIA, WHO WAS ILLEGALLY CAPTURED AND IS BEING TORTURED BY THE REPRESSIVE FORCES OF THE COUNTRY. IN RESPONSE TO THIS DEED, GUATEMALAN STUDENTS HAVE POURED INTO THE STREETS IN HUGE DEMONSTRATIONS FOR THREE DAYS SEEKING ROBIN'S FREEDOM. WE ASK THAT YOU SHOW YOUR SOLIDARITY BY DENOUNCING THIS NEW UNCLASSIFIED

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VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMAND THAT THE GUATEMALAN GOVERNMENT FREE ROBIN GARCIA DAVILA."

6. COMMENT: STUDENT DEATHS, COMING ON HEELS OF JULY SHOOTING OF THE PERSONNEL MANAGER OF THE CAVISA GALSS PLANT (BODYGUARD DIED OF BULLET WOUNDS; INTENDED VICTIM IS RECOVERING) AND GUNNING DOWN OF PROMINENT LEFTIST LAWYER LOPEZ LARRAVE, HAVE FUELED APPREHENSION THAT GUATEMALA MYA BE ON BRINK OF A NEW SURGE OF POLITICAL VIOLENCE. BOSTER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MURDER, HUMAN RIGHTS, STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS, PUBLIC CORRESPONDENCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 05-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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Image Path:
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Line Count: 104
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Message ID: 6bfe6f61-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1701277
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: STUDENT KILLINGS PROTESTED
TAGS: SHUM, PINT, PINS, GT, US, (LEONEL CABALLEROS, ANIBAL), (GARCIA DAVILA, ROBIN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/6bfe6f61-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009